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THIRD BIENNIAL REPORT
OF THE
NEBRASKA
INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND

TO THE
GOVERNOR,
FOR THE YEARS 1879 AND 1880,

*With Introductory Remarks by F. M. Davis, President of Board of Public
Lands and Buildings.*

LINCOLN, NEB.:
JOURNAL COMPANY, STATE PRINTERS.
1881.

OFFICERS AND TEACHERS.

PRINCIPAL,

J. B. PARMELEE.

MATRON AND TEACHER,

N. K. PARMELEE.

TEACHER LITERARY DEPARTMENT,

LUCENA M. HOTCHKISS.

TEACHERS MUSICAL DEPARTMENT,

MARY MCGINNIS, VOCAL.

LILLIE CHADSEY, INSTRUMENTAL.

PHYSICIAN,

D. W. HERSHEY, M. D.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

The appropriations for this institution for the last two years have been sufficient for all demands, and in nearly every item a small amount will probably be unexpended. The administration of the institution has been entirely satisfactory to the board, and no complaints have been received from those having children under its charge.

The buildings are sufficient for the present demand and no improvements are asked for, except a better supply of water to be used in case of fire.

The report of the principal, together with a table showing the expenditures of the appropriations, are herewith submitted.

STATEMENT,

Showing the amounts of unexpended balances, November 30, 1878, of appropriations made by the fourteenth session of the Legislature of Nebraska, for the years 1877, 1878, and the first quarter of 1879, for the Institute for the Blind, the amounts expended, and the balances remaining unexpended, Nov. 30, 1880.

For what purpose appropriated	Bal. Nov. 30, 1878	Amt. expended	Amt. un- expended Nov. 30, 1880
Principal, matron, teachers and physician.....	\$ 3923.05	\$ 2023.28	\$ 1899.77
Improvements on buildings.....	84.07	25.70	8.37
Musical instruments and music.....	241.77	48.14	193.63
Books, maps, charts and apparatus.....	340.76	99.34	241.42
Beds and bedding.....	443.28	381.08	62.20
Furniture and carpets.....	173.63	56.00	117.63
Building for shops.....	56.92	56.92	.....
Tools for shops.....	336.60	14.10	322.50
Trees, shrubbery, etc.....	26.71	25.00	1.71
Physician.....	126.85	48.50	78.35
Living expenses, servant hire, etc.....	7322.38	1850.99	5471.39
Clothing for poor.....	201.00	83.86	117.14
Balance due contractors and sub-contractors.....	1.50	.....	1.50
Mileage of trustees.....	225.00	.....	225.00
Salary of secretary to trustees.....	25.00	25.00	.....
Samuel Bacon, principal, for supplies, etc.....	544.30	.....	544.30
Total	\$14022.82	\$ 4737.91	\$ 9284.91

STATEMENT,

Showing the appropriations as made by the fifteenth session of the Legislature of the State of Nebraska for the years 1879, 1880, and first quarter of 1881, for the Institute for the Blind, to what purpose appropriated, and the amounts expended and the amounts unexpended, to and including Nov. 30, 1880.

For what Purpose Appropriated	Appropriat'ns to Mar. 31, 1881			Amount expen'd	Amount unex- pended
	To Mar. 31, 1880	To Mar. 31, 1881	Total		
Principal, matron teachers and physician.....	\$2500.00	\$2500.00	\$ 5000.00	\$3531.48	\$1468.52
Living expenses, fuel, etc.....	4500.00	4500.00	9000.00	5158.83	3841.17
Musical instruments.....	100.00	100.00	200.00	66.35	133.65
Books and apparatus.....	300.00	300.00	600.00	299.16	300.82
Furniture and bedding.....	200.00	200.00	400.00	292.16	107.84
Clothing for poor.....	100.00	100.00	200.00	83.64	116.36
Improvements, build'g & grounds.....	.....	500.00	500.00	493.17	6.83
Total	\$7700.00	\$8200.00	\$ 15900.00	\$9924.81	\$5975.19

NEBRASKA INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND,
NEBRASKA CITY, NEB., Nov. 15, 1880.

To His Excellency, Albinus Nance, Governor of Nebraska:

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following biennial report of the Nebraska Institution for the Blind, for the two years ending November 15, 1880.

Very respectfully your obedient servant,

J. B PARMELEE,
Principal.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT.

The two years covered by this report have been to us years of progress and prosperity. Our numbers have not been quite what we had anticipated, but after thorough inquiry throughout the state, we find few others who are admissible.

That the proportion of the blind to the total population is less in this state than in many others, is cause for congratulation.

No pains have been spared to induce all who are of proper age, and capable of receiving instruction, to avail themselves of the great benefits conferred by the state through this institution.

The appropriations by the last Legislature for its support have, with a single exception, been ample in supplying all needs:

While our numbers are few, our wants are small, and yet the expense per capita is necessarily somewhat more than it would be, were our number double what it now is.

Harmony, devotion, and earnest faithful endeavor on the part of the associate officers and teachers, and a laudable ambition and desire of the pupils to use to the utmost the opportunities afforded, have combined to elevate the character of the Institution.

There have been in attendance during this time twenty-seven pupils. The greatest number at any one time twenty-three, and the average attendance for the last year twenty-two.

The whole number of pupils who have received instruction since the organization of this school is forty. Of these, nineteen are males, and twenty-one females.

Appended is a list of the names, with the age, residence, etc., of the pupils for the last two years.

There have been in operation during the biennial term classes in the following studies: Reading, spelling, arithmetic, gram-

mar, ancient and modern history, descriptive and physical geography, physiology, natural philosophy, elementary algebra and geometry.

The principal, with the aid of Miss L. M. Hotchkiss, a teacher now of six years' experience in this work, has charge of these classes.

The great want of this department referred to in my former report still exists, viz.: lack of text books in embossed type. However, this want is now in a fair way to be supplied.

The appropriation by the last congress of \$250,000, the same to constitute a permanent fund, the interest of which is to be applied to printing for the blind, will soon furnish the much needed books.

A complete set of maps in relief has been provided, and other apparatus is being added, as the necessities require.

A literary society carried on by the pupils, and now in the third year of its existence, has proven a valuable auxiliary. Herein is gained a knowledge of parliamentary forms and usages, and also training and skill in elocution, debates, essay writing; etc.

The meetings are held weekly, and its membership, which comprises the entire number of pupils, each in their turn performs the work assigned. The results are all the more valuable, in that the work is entirely voluntary.

MUSICAL.

Prof. Jacob Niermeyer, who, up to March, of the present year, had charge of this department, was at that time compelled because of failing health to resign. The department was organized by him, soon after the opening of the Institution, and hence had been under his charge nearly four years.

The efficiency attained by his pupils, and the general excellence of this department, are largely due to his skill as a teacher and organizer.

Miss Mary McGinnis, in vocal, and Miss Lillie Chadsey, in instrumental, music, now have charge of this work, and are keeping it fully up to the former high standard of proficiency.

The department is well equipped with musical instruments and supplies.

The pupils are without exception engaged in work in this department, and are making commendable progress.

All who are acquainted with the blind, their capabilities, requirements and past history, agree in saying that the study of music is most desirable, and yields results fully equal to that of any other branch.

INDUSTRIAL.

In the workshop the manufacture of brooms is still carried on, and as the statement following shows, without expense to the state. The sale of brooms and brushes more than pay the running expenses.

The cane-seating of chairs, which has been introduced recently, is quite an important branch. The work is readily learned, and could be made quite profitable in the vicinity of a chair factory or large city. As it is, repair work only, and that in quite a limited degree, is obtainable.

The industrial work of the girls consists of hand and machine sewing, knitting, crocheting, bead work, etc. A large percentage are becoming proficient, and all are willing workers. This very practical part of the school work should be given full encouragement. Results have shown that the blind are much more capable of handling tools and machinery than many suppose.

The home department is managed as formerly with a view to comfort, health, and physical well-being of all in the household.

We feel it our duty to make the surroundings of the children placed under our care as pleasant and homelike as circumstances will permit, and endeavor in all our teaching to inculcate those

principles of honesty, purity, and uprightness of character which alone can make the true men and women. Education is of little worth except it be accompanied by an enlightened conscience and correct moral principles.

The health of the pupils has been exceptionally good, no deaths nor any serious illness having occurred. A good share of outdoor exercise, regular habits, wholesome food and good sanitary arrangements combine to secure this result.

The appropriations deemed necessary for the current two years, are as follows:

	PER YEAR.	TOTAL.
Living expenses, fuel, wages employees, etc...\$	4000 00	\$8000 00
Salaries, officers, teachers and physician.....	2600 00	5200 00
Improvements, building and grounds.....		700 00
Musical instruments, books and apparatus..	200 00	400 00
Furniture and bedding.....	200 00	400 00
Clothing for poor.....	100 00	200 00

The principal desires to acknowledge the hearty and cordial support of all measures looking to the advancement of the interests of the school, by the board of public lands and buildings.

All needful supplies and improvements have been granted, and no pains spared to place the school upon a solid basis.

The thanks of the officers and pupils of the institution are due the publishers of the following papers, for the regular and gratuitous supply of their respective publications:

The Nebraska City Daily News.

The Nebraska City Weekly Press.

The Omaha Republican.

The Lincoln Journal.

The Mute's Journal.

The Mute's Companion.

The Mistletoe.

Also to the B. & M. railway officials, for reduced rates to pupils traveling over their lines.

INDUSTRIAL DEPARTMENT

In account with the Nebraska Institute for the Blind.

	Dr.	
To invoice of material and brooms on hand Nov. 15, 1878.		
125 pounds broom corn at 3c	\$ 3.75	.....
200 broom handles at 2.00.....	4.00	.....
24 • " " (small).....	48	.....
24 whisk "	48	.....
1 pa. tacks.....	20	.....
2 pounds wire.....	36	.....
$\frac{1}{2}$ doz. whisks.....	62	.....
10 " brooms.....	18.50	.....
		\$ 28.39
To material purchased.		
1,665 pounds broom corn.....	58.27	.....
800 broom handles.....	16.00	.....
" twine	5.20	.....
" wire	9.97	.....
" tacks	50	.....
" flannel	20	.....
200 whisk handles.....	5.00	.....
Cane for seating chairs.....	13.15	.....
		\$ 108.29
		\$ 136.68
	Cr.	
By invoice of material and brooms on hand Nov 1st, 1880.		
25 Broom handles.....	50	.....
150 whisk "	3.75	.....
4 pounds wire	56	.....
47 $\frac{1}{2}$ dozen brooms sold.....	71.25	.....
3 " " used by institute.....	4.50	.....
30 " " on hand, \$1.75	52.50	.....
3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " whisks sold.....	4.20	.....
$\frac{3}{4}$ " " used by institute.....	1.00	.....
2 " " on hand.....	3.00	.....
		\$ 141.26
Received from cane seating chairs.....		10.87
		\$ 152.13
Balance over expenses.....		15.45
	Dr.	
GIRLS' INDUSTRIAL DEPARTMENT.		
To invoice of material on hand, November 15, 1878.....	\$ 13.30	.....
" manufactured articles.....	14.00	.....
" material purchased.....	52.73	.....
		\$ 80.03
	Cr.	
By invoice of material November 1, 1880.....	\$ 19.76	.....
" manufactured articles on hand.....	26.60	.....
" " " sold.....	47.19	.....
		\$ 93.55
Balance over expenses.....		\$ 13.52

INDUSTRIAL DEPARTMENT—*Continued.*

CASH RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES.		
Cash on hand November 15, 1878.....	\$ 20.43	.....
Received from sale of brooms	71.25	.....
“ “ “ of fancy work.....	47.19	.....
“ “ cane seating....	10.87	.....
“ “ sale live stock.....	152.55	.....
“ “ other sources.....	3.33	.....
		\$ 305.62
Paid shop expenses.....	\$ 46.65	.....
“ beads, worsteds, etc.....	52.73	.....
“ live stock.....	8.00	.....
“ furniture and repairs.....	123.80	.....
“ incidental expenses.....	26.88	.....
Cash on hand November 1, 1880.....	47.56	.....
		\$ 305.62

ENROLLMENT OF PUPILS FOR THE TIME COVERED BY THIS REPORT.

NO.	NAMES	AGE	SEX	POST-OFFICE ADDRESS	NATIVITY	WHEN ADMITTED	CAUSE OF BLINDNESS
1	Albert K. Aaberg	21	Male	Bazille Mills, Knox Co.....	Norway	1876, February 22	Small-pox.
2	Thos. M. Andrews.....	25	"	Brownville, Nemaha Co.	Iowa	1877, September 17	.....
3	George Aborn.....	15	"	Ulysses, Butler Co.....	Illinois.....	1878, October 5	Inflammation.
4	Clark Bruce.....	19	"	Tekamah, Burt Co.....	Indiana	1876, September 7	Accident. ~
5	Ella M. Bay.....	.....	Female...	Omaha, Douglas Co.....	Iowa	1879, January 5	Measles.
6	Harvey I. Carpenter ..	22	Male	Lowell, Kearney Co	Illinois.....	1875, October 18	Scarlet fever.
7	Edwin C. Cook.....	19	"	Sheridan, Nemaha Co.	Missouri.....	1878, October 17	Amaurosis.
8	Levi A. Coryell	12	"	Clifton, Nemaha Co.	Nebraska	1878, October 30	Cataract.
9	Mary N. Campbell	23	Female...	Spring Creek, Johnson Co.....	Illinois.....	1875, March 10	"
10	Effie B. Campbell.....	19	"	" " " "	"	1875, March 10	"
11	Maggie L. Campbell....	16	"	" " " "	"	1875, March 10	"
12	Lucy C. Campbell.....	14	"	" " " "	Nebraska	1877, September 11	"
13	Emma Crim.....	17	"	St. Deroi, Nemaha Co.....	"	1875, May 25	Scarlet Fever.
14	Etta J. Carr.....	15	"	Lincoln, Lancaster Co.....	Kansas.....	1878, October 22	Inflammation.
15	Clara Delong.....	15	"	Belvidere, Thayer Co.....	Illinois.....	1878, November 2	Ulceration of cornea.
16	William H. Gregg	15	Male	Pleasant Hill, Saline Co.....	Minnesota ...	1877, November 15	Congenital.
17	Paulina M. Grant.....	19	Female...	Valparaiso, Saunders Co.....	Iowa	1878, March 29	Granulated lids.
18	Mary H. Harman	14	"	Nebraska City, Otoe Co.....	Missouri.....	1878, October 17	Fever.
19	Gerhard Janzen.....	14	Male	Long Hope, York Co.....	Russia.....	1880, January 9	(Not known.)
20	Laura Bell Lee.....	14	Female...	Omaha, Douglas Co.....	Iowa	1878, October 30	Impure vaccination.
21	Julia Mullins.....	20	"	Salem, Richardson Co.....	Nebraska	1876, February 14	Fever.
22	Gustave Quandt.....	16	Male	Grand Island, Hall Co.....	Wisconsin ...	1880, September 8	(Unknown.)
23	Joseph A. Secrist.....	24	"	Salem, Richardson Co.....	Iowa	1879, February 10	Fever.
24	Anna Sipe.....	15	Female...	Hastings, Adams Co.....	Indiana.....	1879, September 9	Scarlet fever.
25	Chas. A. Robinson.....	19	Male	Beatrice, Gage Co.....	Illinois.....	1879, October 1	(Unknown.)
26	Mary M. Warner.....	23	Female...	Dakota City, Dakota Co.....	Iowa	1875, December 30	Inflammation.
27	Eva L. Webb	11	"	Dawson Mills, Richardson Co.	"	1879, October 20	"

APPENDIX.

The Nebraska Institution for the Blind is very pleasantly located in one of the suburbs of Nebraska City about one-half mile north of the court house. The main building is constructed of brick, three stories above the basement and is 49 by 65 feet. Its 30 rooms afford accommodation for about 40 pupils.

The workshop recently erected for the boys' industrial department, is a commodious brick structure 25 by 57 feet, containing four large rooms. Machinery and tools for the manufacture of brooms and the cane seating of chairs have been provided.

Beside the regular school work, it is intended, as the pupils arrive at the proper age, to give all instruction in some industrial work or trade which shall assist them in after life to gain a partial if not an entire support.

In the case of the blind as with the seeing child, education should begin at an early age. As it is manifestly impracticable to send children from home under the age of nine or ten years, this early training must be given them there and by the parents. In the majority of cases, for some unexplained reason, this early training is sadly neglected and some of the best years lost. In nearly all cases more can be done than is done, so that upon entering school the child need not of necessity commence at the very rudiments of knowledge. More especially is this early training necessary in the cultivation of the sense of touch, which, if neglected in early life, results in irreparable loss.

The late Dr. Howe, Superintendent of the Boston Institution for the education of the blind, revered and honored as the pioneer in the work of educating the blind, gives this sensible advice :

“The real and practical education of all children begins as soon as they are born. The blind child needs especial care and peculiar training. The mother, the sister, the brother, the little

companions, can all be very useful to him as teachers, and can give him valuable lessons of various kinds. They can encourage him to leave his couch or rocking chair, and to have courage and self-reliance. They can encourage him to keep on his feet as soon as he can toddle about: can help him to explore the room, house and yard: to climb stairs and ladders: to scale fences, creep through holes, hunt hens' nests and the like. They can give him opportunities to feel of dogs, colts, hens, horses and cattle, and can teach him of the ways and habits of domestic and other animals.

Let him use the cork-screw, drive the common screw, bore with gimblet and bit, split wood with the ax and cut it with a saw, rather than abstain from knowing and using these articles lest he should wound himself. All your anxieties and precautions will not save him from wounds and bruises and hurts of various kinds. He must incur and bear them: all children have to do so, so that your alarms do not save him, but probably have the effect of increasing his danger by preventing him from relying upon himself and so lessen his presence of mind and activity in self-defence when a sudden difficulty presents itself.

Do not prevent your blind child from developing as he grows up, in courage, self-reliance, generosity, and manliness of character by excessive self-indulgence, by sparing him thought and anxiety and hard work by giving him undeserved preference over others. Much may be done for his advantage by judicious firmness, by resolutely insisting that he shall learn to do every thing for himself and for those about him which is possible to do without actually looking at things.

Keep him out of doors and running about as much as possible. Bear in mind that he is exercising for health and strength, and that his object is to be in the open air and to keep warm by exercise, not by extra clothing. But the benefit accruing to your blind child from such continued exercise and work in the open air, is not confined to his bodily growth and health; for the effort to do something useful, to bestir himself and to keep himself warm is good exercise for his moral nature; for every habit of

meeting and overcoming little difficulties increases courage and self-reliance.

These qualities are especially needful to the young blind. Cultivate them by calling upon him to attempt and to perform as many various acts as possible, and especially to succeed by ways of his own finding out. Let him join in with boys of his own age, and strive to imitate them in all their sports and occupations, to associate with them in Sunday School classes, in attendance at public lectures, in gatherings of all kinds, forgetting as much as possible "that he is blind."

It is a mistaken idea that these children should be petted and indulged because of their misfortune. Such a course tends to make them exacting, self-willed, overbearing and disagreeable.

It would seem if anything more necessary that they should cultivate cheerfulness, suavity, a kind and obliging disposition, which will give them a passport into society and ultimate success in their chosen occupation.

Because of their disability, it is frequently the case, that though perfectly competent to perform what they propose they find a prejudice more or less strong, acting as a barrier against them, as with the blind teacher of music; other things being equal people will engage teachers with sight, hence the blind, to make headway, must be able to bring unusual excellence in their art, a character unsullied and a disposition at once agreeable and entertaining.

NOTICE TO APPLICANTS.

Those of suitable age and capacity, and possessing a good moral character, will be admitted.

The regulations of the institution require that all applicants shall, except in peculiar cases, be between the ages of nine and twenty-one years. Tuition, board, and medical attendance are furnished all pupils free of charge during the school year, but parents or guardians are expected to provide good and sufficient clothing, pay all traveling expenses to and from the institution, and take charge of the pupil during the summer vacation.

The school year commences the first Wednesday in September, which is the proper time for the admission of new pupils.

Alphabet sheets and other matter in embossed type will be furnished upon application to blind children who are too young to attend school.

Parents are invited to visit the school and acquaint themselves with the methods of instruction and general character of the school.

On making application, information should be given fully and explicitly upon the following:

1. What is the full name of the applicant?
2. Date of birth and place of birth.
3. Parents' names—are both living?
4. Postoffice address of applicant.
5. What is the degree of blindness?
6. At what age did blindness ensue?
7. Cause of blindness.
8. Has he ever been subject to fits?
9. Is the applicant now in good health and free from contagious disease?
10. Has the applicant any bodily deformity?
11. What is the general moral character of the applicant?
12. What school, if any, has he attended?
13. Is he addicted to the use of tobacco or spirituous liquors?
14. Is the applicant of sound mind and susceptible of intellectual culture?
15. Are the parents in any way related?
16. What are the pecuniary means of the parents or immediate relatives?
17. Who will provide clothing and take charge of the applicant during the summer vacation?

All communications should be addressed to

J. B. PARMELEE,

Principal Nebraska Institute for Blind, Nebraska City.